

Meeting Minutes

Mental Health Planning Council of Virginia

February 21, 2007 TIME: 10:00a.m.

PLACE: Department of Rehabilitative Services – Richmond, VA

MEMBERS: (Present = Bold)

Pierre Ames
Ann Benner
Raymond Bridge
Becky Currin
Ann Cutshall
Betty Etzler
Patricia Fowler
Dawn Girard
Catherine Hancock
Vicki Hardy-Murrel
Mellissa C. Harless
Donna-Sue M. Harmon
Alison Hymes
James A. Johnson
Mary Kaye Johnston
Mary McQuown
James M. Martinez
Kenneth Moore
Lisa Moore
Brian Parrish
Paula Price
Sherry Rose
Joe Speidel
Byron Stith
Irene Walker-Bolton
Nancy W. Ward
Tom Weaver
Jack Wood

Staff

George Banks
Frank Beylotte
Charline Davidson
Will Ferriss
Sharon Koehler
Janet Lung
Jo-Amrah McElroy
Ray Ratke
James Reinhard
Shirley Ricks
Kathleen Sadler
Michael Shank
Frank Tetrick
Rhonda Thiessen

Guests:

Cathy Hill, OIG
John Pezzori, OIG

MEETING AGENDA – MAIN DISCUSSION POINTS

Introductions and Announcements

Jack Wood, President, welcomed all and began the meeting. Council members introduced themselves and gave a brief overview of their affiliations.

Announcements:

Mary McQuown: Mary has taken a position with Recovery Innovations and can now be reached at MaryM@RecoveryInnovations.org.

Ann Benner: The VOCAL second annual statewide mental health consumer conference will be held on the campus of Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, from **June 19 - June 21, 2007**.

Charlene Davidson: The MH comprehensive plan is now being updated; Details to follow at subsequent meetings.

Updates:

Martha Meade – Update on current MH related legislation before the General Assembly (GA).

Discussions:

Raymond Bridge brought up the issue of the GA taking \$1.9 M from Block Grant funds to fund consumer training and geriatric services. Ray raised the concern that this money was already going to be used for this purpose and the GA did not consult the MHPC before proceeding and thus making unilateral decisions on how the BG funding should be allocated.

A motion to was made and passed to make a statement to the General Assembly that the MHPC should be consulted in advance of allocation decisions being made regarding BG funding.

During the meeting, Ray heard back from the Commissioner who stated that he is supportive of the Council's position.

There was extensive discussion regarding the Council's role in BG planning and the consensus was that the Council should be more proactive in the BG planning process. Furthermore, consensus was reached regarding the Council's role in promoting outcome measures, consumer surveys, etc.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

No committee reports due to extensive discussions mentioned above.

The Adult Services Committee met just prior to the MHPC meeting and will meet again on March 9, 2007. The Children's Services Committee met directly after the MHPC meeting.

Office of the Inspector General (OIG) Report

Cathy Hill and John Pezzori of the OIG's office gave a preliminary report on the OIG's study of state facilities and the adoption of recovery-oriented practices. The study included eight facilities and numerous interviews were conducted with staff, consumers, and consumer's families along with record reviews. The preliminary findings were characterized as "promising", but the full analysis will not be completed until late spring and a final report will follow.

Mental Health Block Grant

Will Ferris, reported on the recent NRI (National Research Institute) conference held in February attended by Will, Jo-Amrah McElroy, Dr. Jim Evans, and George Banks.

The annual conference focused on research and methods for states regarding data collection systems and outcome measures. Will summed up the conference theme by repeating a quote that was stated in a keynote address: "No outcomes, no income"

Will also discussed the National Outcome Measures (NOM's) and emphasized the need for a partnership between providers, central office, MHPC, and consumer organizations in order to achieve these goals.

George Banks talked about a national study that OMH is involved in which is designed to validate the adult consumer survey questions concerning arrests, which is a NOM. He also announced that the 2006 youth and adults survey results will be released soon.

Jo-Amhrah McElroy reported that the federal BG review in January went smoothly and thanked all who assisted and met with the reviewers. The final report from the review will be sent in late spring.

Jim Martinez reported that Request for Proposals (RFPs) are being developed for CSB's for funding to go toward training for recovery-oriented practices.

Discussion:

There was also extensive discussion about the MHPC role in outcome measurement, instrument development, etc. Charlene [Davidson] suggested a forming an Outcomes sub-committee (which is included in the “Goals” section.).

There was also discussion regarding the process for the on-time, \$42,500.00 to the CSB’s without alerting\discussing with the MHPC and members questioned why the money only went to the CSB’s. Jim and Will explained that once it was noted that the money was available, there was not enough time to go through a bidding\contracting process and the CSB’s are already designated fiscal agents for BG funds. However, Jim also explained that the CSB’s could only use the funds for children’s services, data infrastructure, and recovery-oriented practices. Jim also agreed that, to the extent possible, the MHPC should be involved in these types of decisions.

Goals for the MHPC for 2007:

Jack led a brainstorming session to develop ideas for 2007 goals for the MHPC:

- Look at waiting lists
- Crisis prevention
- Develop a BG spending plan (establish a “wishlist”)
- Review the OIG report on state facilities
- Give input into the DMHMRSAS Comprehensive Plan
- Develop an Outcomes Sub-committee
- Develop position statements on: a) Recovery; b) Housing; and c) Employment

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: April 18, 2007 at Henrico CSB